

From: [Prue Gregory](#)
To: [Committee, JSCINRS \(REPS\)](#)
Cc: [Craig Hughes-Cashmore](#)
Subject: 6.1 - SAMSN
Date: Monday, 17 July 2023 11:37:09 AM
Attachments: [evaluation report Parramatta workshop June 2023.docx](#)
[evaluation report Dubbo workshop May 2023.docx](#)
[response to Senator Shoebridge FINAL.pdf](#)

Dear Colleagues,

We were asked two questions on notice while we gave evidence before the committee on Friday 7 July.

The first question was put by Mr Zappia MP and was *“Can you provide the committee with what I would describe as the average age of the males at the time that they were offended?”*

The review of our data has shown that the average age of our clients at the time they were sexually abused was 10 years of age.

The Child Abuse Royal Commission found in relation to the age at the time of the abuse:

- for boys the average age at the time of the assault was 11.6 years; and
- for girls it was 10.4 years.

Our data is showing that the age of our clients when they were abused, was slightly younger than the averages found by the Commission.

The second question was put by Senator Shoebridge and was *“ Would it be possible for you to give us on notice some additional sort of skeleton of how the workshops have happened and the nature of that?”*

In response to this question, we are attaching a document detailing how the workshops were developed together with evaluations of the two most recent workshops. The first evaluation is of the workshop held in Dubbo in May and the second is of the workshop held in Parramatta in June specifically for services supporting people with disability.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should further information be required.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide evidence to this committee.

Kind regards
Prue

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SUMMARY OF EVALUATIONS

MOUNT DRUITT WORKSHOP – 30 MARCH 2023

Your role	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disability provider • Attendee • LAC • Disability flexible support manager • Mental Health Outreach Support Worker • Caseworker/Advocate • Disability service provider • NDIS provider – Customer Care Manager • Disability Advocate • Counsellor • Community Engagement/Counsellor
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All eleven participants indicated they did not work for a Redress Support Service, however some of them worked for organisations that provide a Redress Support Service.

BEFORE TODAY'S WORKSHOP

QUESTION	YES	NO
1. I knew about the National Redress Scheme.	7	4
2. I was confident to share information about the Scheme with my clients.	1	10
3. I knew about the Redress Support Services and what they do.	3	8
4. I was confident to refer clients to these services.	2	9

AFTER TODAY'S WORKSHOP

QUESTION	YES	NO
1. I know more about the National Redress Scheme and feel confident that I can tell my client about the Scheme.	11	
2. I know more about what Redress Support Services do.	11	
3. I am now confident to refer clients to these services.	11	
4. I feel better equipped to respond to survivors who might disclose.	11	
5. The information today is relevant to what I do.	10.5	0.5

Note that one person made a mark in both yes and no for Q5.

How did you find out about today's workshop?

Email – 6

Word of mouth – 2

Interagency – 1

Other – phone call from PWDA – 1

Other – colleague – 1

What was the most valuable aspect of the workshop?

- Info provided - all
- Support services
- Learning about the Scheme and supports
- Understanding about the Scheme eligibility
- Resources, service lines, overall info
- The breadth of knowledge in the room
- All talks were relevant
- Understanding the service
- Services available
- The broad range of information shared

Was there any information not covered today that you wanted to know? If yes what?

No = 6

Yes = 2 – comments being - likelihood of a positive outcome in comparison to a negative one – one case study/example, insight into what 60 page document looks like

Do you or the organization you work for provide free services that survivors could access if referred to you?

Yes = 8

No = 2

If yes, what are the services and how can we contact you to learn more about them?

- Disability Counselling, RA NSW
- Relationships Australia DRC Counselling
- Individual Advocacy with PWDA
- DV Service Hub

- WDO, Aight Ability
- Disability Advocacy service , North Sydney Region, Action for People with Disability
- Individual advocacy for people with disability , MDAA
- One Door TRISS program or CPS services as well as support groups
www.onedoor.org.au

Any additional comments?

- Thanks PWDA
- Workshop was very well run and informative
- Thank you I appreciate all the information so much

SUMMARY OF EVALUATION SURVEYS

DUBBO – 5 MAY 2023

Your role	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial counsellor • Aboriginal father’s group facilitator • Teacher • Aboriginal field officer • NDIS support co-ordinator • Psychologist • Community development - seniors and people with disability • Aboriginal family wellness and domestic and family violence prevention • Program coordinator
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All nine participants indicated they did not work for a Redress Support Service.

BEFORE TODAY’S WORKSHOP

QUESTION	YES	NO
1. I knew about the National Redress Scheme.	7	2
2. I was confident to share information about the Scheme with my clients.	1	8
3. I knew about the Redress Support Services and what they do.	1	8
4. I was confident to refer clients to these services.	2	7

AFTER TODAY’S WORKSHOP

QUESTION	YES	NO
1. I know more about the National Redress Scheme and feel confident that I can tell my client about the Scheme.	9	
2. I know more about what Redress Support Services do.	9	
3. I am now confident to refer clients to these services.	9	
4. I feel better equipped to respond to survivors who might disclose.	9	
5. The information today is relevant to what I do.	9	

How did you find out about today's workshop?

Email – 3

Word of mouth – 3

Interagency – 1

Other – 2

What was the most valuable aspect of the workshop?

- All three schemes explained comparatively in one place
- Knowmore legal service
- Meeting other workers
- Different services available
- Networking
- Everything
- Being introduced to so many services, knowledge of options
- Information

Was there any information not covered today that you wanted to know? If yes what?

No = 7

Yes =2 – comments being

- A one pager showing comparisons between the schemes – eligibility, cut off dates and links to schemes
- Outreach to other areas

Do you or the organization you work for provide free services that survivors could access if referred to you?

Yes = 6

No = 3

If yes, what are the services and how can we contact you to learn more about them?

- Financial counselling
- Uniting programs
- Legal Aid – legal advice for civil, family and criminal law matters
- Community health sexual assault services Dubbo and counselling services team
- YooranalGunya has a SEWB worker and family violence/sexual assault worker
- Binaal Billa Family Violence Prevention Legal Service is funded to support Aboriginal survivors of family and domestic violence and/or sexual assault – we have support workers providing holistic case management.

Any additional comments?

- Great presentations/services overview
- Very informative and collaborative day
- I appreciated everything you did today

Response to question put by Senator Shoebridge concerning how the workshops about the National Redress Scheme happened

Overview

To date, seven workshops providing information about the National Redress Scheme to community and government organisations, have been held across New South Wales. The first workshop was delivered in May 2022 in Bankstown, followed by workshops in Penrith, Campbelltown, Redfern, Mount Druitt, Dubbo and Parramatta. A further two workshops are planned for this year, one in Wyong and one in south-western New South Wales.

How did this happen?

At the regular meetings of the New South Wales Community of Practice for Redress Support Services in late 2021 concerns were raised as to the many community organisations being visited on outreach, with no knowledge of the National Redress Scheme.

The proposed solution

It was decided by the Community of Practice to establish a steering committee of Redress Support Services to develop a co-ordinated plan to roll out workshops across New South Wales. It was also determined that the audience for the workshops should be staff at community and government organisations, on the basis staff in these organisations have existing relationships of trust within their communities.

The Steering Committee comprised representatives from People with Disability Australia, Wattle Place, Link-up NSW and Survivors & Mates Support Network. In September 2021 a proposal was put to the Department of Social Services, the department responsible for the implementation of the National Redress Scheme, to fund the proposal. Funding of \$85,000 was received for three workshops to be held prior to July 2022.

Determining the location of the workshops was based on data provided by the National Redress Scheme. This data helped us identify the regions in NSW where applications were being lodged with little or no support.

Workshops held in 2022

Prior to July 2022 workshops were held in Bankstown, Penrith and Campbelltown. Organisations supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander survivors, put a proposal to the Steering Committee that a further workshop be held specifically for community and government organisations supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander survivors. This workshop was held in Redfern in November 2022. At this point, Kinchela Boys Home Aboriginal Corporation as a newly funded Redress Support Service, joined the Steering Committee.



Workshops held in 2023

In early 2023 a proposal was put to the Department of Social Services for funding to hold further workshops. Funding of \$64,000 was received enabling workshops to be held this year in Mount Druitt, Dubbo, Wyong and south western New South Wales. An additional sum of \$10,000 was received to enable a workshop to be held for organisations specifically supporting survivors living with disability. This workshop was held in Parramatta in June.

Feedback from each evaluation has consistently shown that information about the National Redress Scheme and the local Redress Support Services has been successfully disseminated at the workshops.

During this time, members of the steering committee have been approached by Redress Support Services in other states, to share the model of service delivery with them. We have not hesitated to provide our planning documents and copies of the resources distributed at the workshops.

Conclusion

The evaluations of each of the workshops have consistently shown that because of the workshops those attending have a much better understanding of the National Redress Scheme and of the support available from the Redress Support Services. These workshops are a cost-effective way of

- i. disseminating information;
- ii. building relationships with Redress Support Services; and
- iii. facilitating warm referrals

all vital for successful engagement with survivors who may be eligible to apply to the National Redress Scheme.

The evaluation of the workshop held in May in Dubbo is *attached*, together with the evaluation of the specialist workshop in Parramatta in June for disability support services.

Ongoing funding will be necessary to enable these workshops to be delivered in 2024. Once funding has been secured, we will begin the planning. Updated data from the National Redress Scheme will be relied on again to determine the regions where the workshops should be held.

Prue Gregory OAM

17 July 2023

